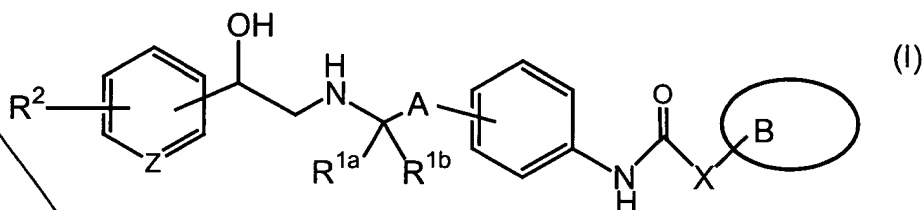


1. (Once Amended) An amide derivative represented by the general formula (I):



in the formula, each of the symbols means as follows:

ring B is a heteroaryl group which is unsubstituted or substituted and is optionally fused with a benzene ring;

X is a bond, or a lower alkylene or an alkenylene, both of which are unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxy or a lower alkyl group, or X is a carbonyl or a group represented by -NH-, and when X is a lower alkylene which is substituted with a lower alkyl group, a carbon atom of the ring B optionally bonds with the lower alkyl group so that a ring is formed;

A is a lower alkylene or a group represented by -lower alkylene-O-;

R^{1a}, R^{1b} are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; and

Z is a nitrogen atom or a group represented by =CH-;

or a salt thereof.

3. (Once Amended) The amide derivative or the salt thereof according to claim 2,

wherein the ring B is a heteroaryl group which is substituted with a substituent chosen

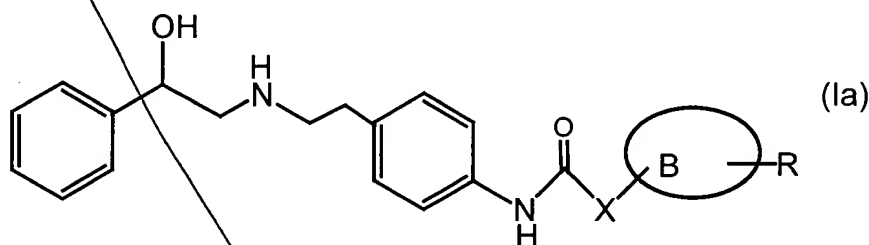
Sub
B
3

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Sub B3
from a halogen atom, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, hydroxy, sulfanyl, halogeno lower alkyl, lower alkyl-O-, lower alkyl-S-, lower alkyl-O-CO-, carboxy, sulfonyl, sulfinyl, lower alkyl-SO-, lower alkyl-SO₂-, lower alkyl-CO-, lower alkyl-CO-O-, carbamoyl, lower alkyl-NH-CO-, di-lower alkyl-N-CO-, nitro, cyano, amino, lower alkyl-NH-, di-lower alkyl-N-, aryl-lower alkyl, halogeno aryl-lower alkyl, guanidino, lower alkyl-CO-NH, and lower alkyl-SO₂-NH-.

5. (Once Amended) An amide derivative represented by the general formula (Ia):



in the formula, each of the symbols means as follows:

ring B is a heteroaryl group;

X is a bond or a lower alkylene group;

R is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, amino group, an aryl lower alkyl group, or a halogeno aryl-lower alkyl group; or a salt thereof.

6. (Once Amended)

(R)-4'-[2-[(2-Hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)amino]ethyl]-2-pyridinecarboxyanilide,

(R)-2-[1-(4-chlorobenzyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-4'-[2-[(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)amino]ethyl]-

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B5
~~acetanilide, (R)-2-[1-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)-1H-tetrazol-5-yl]-4'-[2-[(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)amino]ethyl]acetanilide,
(R)-2-(2-aminothiazol-4-yl)-4'-[2-(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)amino]ethyl]acetanilide,
(R)-2-(2-benzyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)-4'-[2-[(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)-amino]ethyl]acetanilide,
(R)-2-(2-aminopyridin-6-yl)-4'-[2-[(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)amino]ethyl]acetanilide, (R)-4'-[2-[(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)amino]ethyl]-2-(2-pyridyl)acetanilide,
~~PR~~ (R)-4'-[2-[(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)-amino]ethyl]-2-(2-pyrazinyl)acetanilide, (R)-4'-[2-[(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)amino]ethyl)-2-(2-pyrimidinyl)-acetanilide, or a salt of any of the foregoing.~~

7. (Once Amended) A composition comprising at least one amide derivative or the salt thereof as claimed in one of claims 1 through 6 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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B6
~~9. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the amount of at least one amide derivative or the salt thereof is an amount effective for the treating diabetes mellitus in a human or animal patient in need of such treating.~~

10. (New) The amide derivative of general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amide derivative is an optical isomer, a hydrate, or a solvate of the amide derivative.

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B6
11. (New) A composition comprising an amide derivative of general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the amide derivative is present as a polymorphic substance.

12. (New) A method for treating diabetes mellitus in a human or animal patient in need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient an amount of an amide derivative of general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount is an amount effective for such treatment.

13. (New) A method for treating obesity in a human or animal patient in need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient an amount of an amide derivative of general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount is an amount effective for such treatment.

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are now pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 have been amended, and claim 8 has been canceled, all without prejudice to pursuing canceled subject matter, if any, in a continuation application, without disclaimer of any subject matter, and without acquiescence to any rejection, objection, or requirement. New claim 9 has been added to replace canceled claim 8. New claims 10 and 11 have been added to point out that several forms of the amide derivative of claim 1 form part of the claimed invention. Claim 12 has been added to claim the method of treatment implicit in